

## Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 062781

R 220907Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1320

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 5629

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI MY

SUBJ: M-16 SALE AND SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 4117

1. HELPFUL REVIEW OF BIDDING IN REFTEL PRODUCED IMPORTANT BIT OF NEW INFORMATION. WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT GOM HAD ASKED TO PURCHASE M-16S FROM SINGAPORE AND HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. WE HAD UNDERSTOOD SINGAPORE WAS NOT CONSIDERED FEASIBLE SUPPLIER IN AMOUNTS MALAYSIA WANTED BECAUSE OF RELATIVELY SMALL PRODUCTION AND BECAUSE OF SINGAPORE'S COMMITMENTS, E.G. THAILAND. FURTHERMORE, WE UNDERSTAND GOM WANTS M-16 MODEL A-1 WHICH NOT MADE IN SINGAPORE.

2. WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGN HERE OF THE COLT CAMPAIGN TO DISPARATE SINGAPORE OPERATION. IN FOUR OR FIVE PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH ROY, SINGAPORE WAS NOT MENTIONED. HIS COMMENT ON SINGAPORE AMMUNITION CAME AS AN ASIDE IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION OM GOM'S AMMUNITION POSITION. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A FAIRLY HIGH INCIDENCE OF SPLIT CASINGS AND OCCASIONAL DROPPED PRIMERS, AND THAT UNDER-LOADING HAD BEEN USED TO OFFSET WEAK CASINGS. CROWN AGENT REPRESENTATIVE HERE, WHO IS HEAVILY ENGAGED IN AMMUNITION AND ORDNANCE PROCUREMENT, HAS CONFIRMED TO US HIGH INCIDENCE OF SPLIT CASINGS, BUT SAID HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF UNDER-LOADING PROBLEM.

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3. WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD DO NOTHING TO DISCOURAGE  
SINGAPORE-MALAYSIAN COOPERATION IN AREA OF SMALL ARMS  
PRODUCTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE SEE NO REASON TO  
INVOLVE OURSELVES ACTIVELY IN PROMOTING THIS COOPERATION.  
AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY NOTED, THERE HAS BEEN STEADY  
IMPROVEMENT IN SINGAPORE-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS IN RECENT  
YEARS AND WE ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CONTINUING PROGRESS. WE  
SHOULD LET IT PROCEED AT ITS OWN PACE. WE HAVE BEEN PASSIVE  
RECIPIENTS OF INFORMATION WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ACCURATE,  
AND HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT PRESUME TO ADVISE GOM ON ITS  
AMMUNITION PROBLEMS.  
UNDERHILL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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